

## THE ANTIQUARY.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16, 1871.

## THE ROUND TOWERS OF IRELAND.

THE following very interesting descriptive account of the round towers in Ireland is from a little work recently published "On the Druids, Ancient Churches, and Round Towers of Ireland," by the Rev. Richard Smiddy. It may be premised that the author is of opinion that the Irish round towers were used as baptisteries before the sixth century, after which the fonts were removed into the adjoining churches. The work in question explains the author's reasons for adopting this view, which is, of course, open to criticism just as much as the fifteen theories already enumerated, *ante* p. 16.

The Irish round towers are "round or circular stone edifices, varying in height from fifty to one hundred and thirty or forty feet, and in circumference from forty to sixty or more feet at the base. They are tapering, or slightly lessening in size from the foundation upwards; and they terminate at the top in a conical head, varying from ten to fifteen, or perhaps twenty feet high. This cap or top sometimes exhibits a projection in a ring or cornice at the point where it springs from the body of the tower, and it is supposed that it terminated in a stone cross. At the base, the tower also usually projects outwards, in the form of two or three steps, in so many courses of circular masonry. In many cases, especially where there is not a solid rock foundation, these are only partially visible above the soil. The wall at the base is never less than three feet thick, and is sometimes even five feet when required by the height and massiveness of the superstructure. The body of the tower is divided into stories, or landings, varying from four to eight in number, according to the height of the tower; and the distance between each of the stories is about twelve feet. Each of the stories is lighted by an opening or window, indifferently placed east, west, north, or south; but the upper story under the conical head, is generally lighted by four windows facing the cardinal points. The lowest story, at or under the doorway, has no window or aperture whatever for the transmission of light. The windows in the stories are generally narrow and small, and only one in each; while, in a few instances, in the uppermost story there are two or three openings or windows in addition to those facing the cardinal points. The character of the door is very peculiar. In some instances it is placed in the wall, only five or six feet from the ground, and then varies in elevation till it reaches twenty-four, or perhaps thirty, feet from the foundation of the building. Its average height, however, is perhaps about twelve or thirteen feet; and in some instances there is over it an aperture, or window, by its largeness resembling a second door. The doorways are generally small, and hanging in from the perpendicular. The heads of them are sometimes square, being formed by a stone lintel, sometimes semicircular, formed by an arch, or hol-

lowed stone, and sometimes angular, being formed of two massive stones, hanging in from the perpendicular sides and meeting at the apex. The tops of the windows present the same varied features. The masonry of the towers resembles that of the ancient churches, but is more solid and substantial. There is in them the same irregular laying of the stones in the style called Cyclopean, and also the grouting, or packing of mortar in the centre of the walls. The doorways seldom exhibit any architectural decorations; but there is sometimes on the lintel, or over the arch, an engraved cross, or a figure of the crucifixion; and in some cases a cornice runs along the outer edges. The round tower of Brechin, in Scotland, has on it some figures or sacred emblems externally. Immediately under the conical head of the round tower of Devenish Island, in the county of Fermanagh, is a richly-sculptured cornice, in which are introduced four human heads, one facing each of the cardinal points.

"The round tower is invariably found standing near an old church, or the ruins of an old church, or in a place where an old church is known to have existed.

"The elevated door was reached by a flight of steps, or a ladder from the outside; and the stories were reached by a ladder erected inside from one to the other. In them the different landings were formed of wooden flooring, for the joists or supports of which there were either off-sets or resting-places, made in the construction of the walls. In many of the towers the stories are marked externally by set-offs. They are indicated in the one at Ardmore by bands or belts. The ancient stone steps to the door, having apparently in the lapse of ages undergone many repairs and restorations, are still found in connexion with the perfect round tower of Clondalkin, near Dublin. They wind round and close to the outer base, resting on a support of stone and mortar rubble-work, and they spring from a point on the south side which, by an easy ascent leads to the elevated door on the east. The solidity of the materials and of the workmanship in the walls of the towers has been well tested and proved by the frosts, heats, storms, and rains of many hundred years. In most of them, however, the sharp conical head has been injured or destroyed, more probably by the effects of lightning than any other cause. It is only in very few specimens that this peculiar cap is perfect; but they all possessed it at one time. Possibly, not a few owe its disappearance or destruction to vandal ignorance, or vulgar utility, as in many cases it might have been removed to make the top more open for transmitting the sound of a bell. Something of this kind has occurred to the round tower of Cloynce. About the year 1683 a bell was hung in it. The top was then open; but it is not ascertained whether that was the result of design or of accident. It was subsequently struck by lightning and the bell broken. For the protection of the new bell, its successor, ten feet of masonry were added to the top of the tower. This part was made to terminate in a castellated form, instead of the ancient conical head. The inner walls of the top of the tower of Ardmore have been scooped out, or cut away, to permit the swinging of a bell, though the conical head has been spared.

"There were probably in Ireland, at one time, more than one hundred of these curious structures, of which seventy or eighty now remain in various stages of preservation and

dilapidation. The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge professed to have traced out the existence of one hundred and eighteen of them. Their list, which included fallen towers as well as those standing, was published in the year 1845, and is, perhaps, as accurate as it could be in circumstances of the kind. Possibly, it was somewhat in excess of the real number. In many of the towers the masonry and materials are of a very superior and durable quality. All, however, were of the same form, or model, that is, rotund, tapering to the top, and terminating in a conical head.

"It must be admitted that, in not a few instances, human hands have assisted the elements in obliterating all vestiges of many round towers. This was the case with respect to the round tower of Rosscarbery of which not a trace now remains, and also with regard to the round tower which stood near the church of Saint Finbarr, in the city of Cork. In the year 1720, a violent storm threw down the round tower of Brigowne, near Mitchelstown, leaving standing of it only a fragment or stump about fifteen feet high from the base. In that state it continued till about fifty years ago, when this fragment was taken down and the stones used in the erection of a new glebe house or parsonage in its immediate neighbourhood. The key-stone or lintel over the door, which had on it an inscribed cross, the workmen refused to take away; and that is either buried in the adjoining cemetery, or, perhaps, forms there now the foot-stone of an unknown grave."

#### THE BODMIN IVORY CASKET.

It often happens that the owner of some curiosity of great antiquarian interest values it, not with any regard for its historical connections or its artistic merits, but solely in a monetary point of view, and at the first opportunity is ready and willing to dispose of it for what it will fetch. This, indeed, seems to be the state of mind of the people of Bodmin, one of the largest towns in Cornwall, whose corporation is fortunate enough to possess a curious and very ancient ivory casket, or reliquary of mediæval workmanship. It has been in the town for some centuries, but no sooner is it publicly known how valuable this little object is, than a suggestion is made to dispose of it, if a purchaser can be found, and with the money thus obtained to make new sewers! One would think that the Bodminites cared little for ancient works of art, for scarcely any opposition has been made to the proposal. The little box is said to be worth 500*l.* or more—a sum that will not go far towards defraying the expense of any sanitary improvements, if they are to be worth anything when finished—but although the authorities at South Kensington and the British Museum have been applied to, they do not seem to be very anxious to add it to their already crowded cabinets, and "it would be vandalism," as a Cornish antiquary has remarked, "to sell it to a private possessor." Obviously its legitimate home is at Bodmin, where local associations surround it, and why not let it there remain, instead of transferring it to some national, or even worse, to some private collection? It is to be hoped that the town-councillors and their friends will re-consider the matter, and instead of trying to part with their ivory casket, preserve it "as one of the choicest treasures of the town."

How this valuable ivory reliquary came into the possession of the Bodmin corporation may be thus explained. A Cornish saint, by name Petrock, is said to have died about 560, and his bones revered by the monks at Bodmin, were carefully preserved; but somehow or other they were stolen

and carried over into Brittany, where they were deposited in the Abbey of St. Mevenus. Here it was that Prior Roger of Bodmin found these relics in 1177, and brought them again into this country. A contemporary author records that this Prior "brought the body of the blessed Petrock closed in an ivory case to the city of Winchester, and when it was brought into the king's presence, the king having seen and adored it, permitted the prior to return in peace with his holy charge to the Abbey of Bodmin." The ivory case here mentioned is no doubt the ivory casket still at Bodmin. Until the Reformation, it remained in the custody of the prior, but when at the dissolution of the monasteries the priory church was destroyed, it was removed for safety to the parvise chamber of the parish church where the mayor's accounts and other documents of the corporation were kept. Eventually these being removed to the Guildhall, the ivory box was carried with them. It is now one of the possessions of the town clerk's office.

The size of the Bodmin casket is about 1 foot 6 inches in length, 1 foot in breadth, and about 10 inches in height. It is made of thin slabs of ivory, with the exception of the bottom which is of oak, very thin and ornamented. The sides are not veneered with ivory as is commonly the practice, but are composed of solid slabs, and this, of course, renders the casket of far greater intrinsic value than the ordinary examples of mediæval art-work of the same class that are only veneered. The outside is polished and has on it several cruciform rosettes within circles, and also figures of birds quaintly drawn in gold and colours. The inner face of the ivory slabs is quite rough, and from the holes to be seen here and there a lining of some kind was probably attached. No metal is used in the construction of the casket, excepting the bands of brass-work that encircle it vertically, and the clamps at the angles. The rivets are of ivory. The cover is considerably bevelled so that the actual top of the box is only about six inches wide. It is provided with a lock. It remains only to say that some have considered this reliquary to be of Moorish design, but Mr. Nesbitt sees in it traces of Oriental workmanship.

E. H. W. DUNKIN.

December 5, 1871.

#### SUNDRY NOTES ON MAIDEN NEWTOWN, DORSETSHIRE.

THIS place does not appear to have been known by the name of "Maiden" Newtown till some considerable time after the Conquest, and a similar case occurs with respect to "Maiden" Bradley, in Wilts (see "Sir Richard Colt Hoare's Wilts"). If "Maiden" is a corruption of the British word for a church, how comes it that the word was preserved by the Pagan West Saxons, and through not only the Saxon period but long after the Norman Conquest, although not generally used (see "Domesday Book"), and that it should turn up so long after, in both cases. As to the supposition of the Rev. Mr. Barnes that it belonged to a nunnery, the only lands known to belong to a nunnery in the parish were at Thorp or Droop, above Frampton, being the spot where the famous Roman pavements are found, and where the upper step of across lies; this field is still known as "Nunnery Mead," and is said to have belonged to Godston Nunnery. The "Newtown" of "Domesday" could only have been new on reference to Tollerford, which is still quite close to it. The ancient road went on the other side of the river, and passed through Tollerford. Part of the tower of the Church of Maiden Newtown is Saxon (its north side). Now, in general, Saxon stone churches are somewhere about the Confessor's time, therefore if we suppose that Tollerford shared the usual fate of the towns and villages which lay in Swend's way on his avenging march, in 1002, from Exeter to Dorchester, we may conclude it was destroyed, and the poor remains of the then inhabitants, on

their return, finding only the ashes of their destroyed houses, sought a temporary refuge where they could throw up defensive mounds by taking advantage of the cliff overhanging the river. This may have gradually become a permanent village, and thus a new town. Toller Ford, though emerging from its ashes, yet never recovering the blow like the larger town said to have stood (and been destroyed at the same time) at Clifton, near Yeovil.

The date of the Saxon church would well agree with this theory, as the village of Tollerford must certainly have been the principal or only one when Hundreds were first constituted, the Hundred taking its name of Tollerford Hundred from it.

In very ancient times dwellings must have existed near, as a Roman vase of fine black ware and elegant shape was discovered in the field next Court Close on north side of churchyard, on top of cliff, in 1857. When found it held ashes and burnt bones.

A Roman silver coin, of one of the emperors, has been discovered in a garden in the village.

On the eastern edge of the cutting of the Bridport Railway, where the bridge to Curry road from Tollerford crosses (near south side of bridge), several very rude, coarse vases, with a knob instead of handle on each side, and containing burnt bones and ashes, were found at the bottom of small conical holes sunk into the ground, to sometimes up to a depth of about five feet, and under; no marks of barrows were to be seen on top of grass, nor would it have been known had they not been cut through during the sloping of the railway bank before the railway was opened. One of these was in the possession of Mr. J. Brown, the school-master.

The cross in centre of the village is of the Perpendicular style, date 15th century, and has on it the crucifixion, with the Virgin and St. John on each side. It is much mutilated.

At the lower end of this parish lies the "Nunnery Mead," where the famous Roman pavements were found, with the Christian monogram. The name is supposed to be given from the property having once belonged to Godston Nunnery, and the upper step of the base of an early cross lay, some years ago, at the remains of the Roman villa—the stone was circular in shape and had a square hole, seemingly to insert the shaft of cross in.

JAS. THOS. IRVINE.

#### THE RUINS OF BAALBECK.

To the Editor of the "TIMES."

SIR,—Allow me, through your columns, to plead for the ruins of Baalbeck.

After an interval of fourteen months, I have lately revisited them, and was astonished to see how much damage had been done in that time, chiefly by frost and rain, especially to the seven columns of the Great Temple.

The third pillar from the east is in a very bad state; its base is undermined northwards to a depth of 3 feet; some 5 or 6 feet of the lower stone have flaked away in large pieces, and the stones are generally scaling. The cornice above No. 3 and No. 4 is cracked midway between the columns, and as the stone is crumbling away, it seems in great danger of falling.

A large mass of the north-west corner of the square base supporting the western column has been broken away by frost, and the column now overhangs 13 inches.

All the columns have been more or less undermined by the natives, who thus endanger them for the sake of the metal clumps worth a few piastres; and unless something is done these fine columns will soon have fallen.

A few iron bands round the columns connected by bars, and a little careful undermining, would doubtless preserve them for many years, and I have no doubt that permission

to do this would readily be obtained from the new Wali of Syria, whom all speak of as an honourable and intelligent man.

Could not a subscription be made in England? I believe 40*l.* or 50*l.* would suffice—and then would not some architect or civil engineer, intending to visit Palestine during the ensuing tourist season, volunteer to stay a few days and see the thing done?

I fear that if it be not set about within the year it will then be too late.

I remain, Sir, yours, &c.,

CHAS. F. TYRWHITT DRAKE.

Damascus, November 20.

#### NOTE ON THE INTRODUCTION OF PARISH REGISTERS.

THOSE who make researches into family history and genealogy know full well the value of old and carefully kept parish registers. Hence the great service that is always done when transcripts of these records are made and published in a form likely to be preserved and accessible to all. But it must always be remembered that the earliest register dates only from the middle of the 16th century. In 1536, certain instructions to the clergy were issued by Thomas Cromwell, when he was appointed Vice-Regent for Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, but it was not till 1538, that registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials were ordered to be kept in each parish. Considering the many changes about that time, it is not surprising that some degree of mistrust was felt by many of the country folk at this innovation, and this is curiously shown in a contemporary letter from Sir Piers Edgcumbe to Cromwell. Sir Piers died August 14, 1539, possessor of the Cothele and Mount Edgcumbe estates in Cornwall. The original letter is in his own handwriting, and the quaint spelling is preserved in the following copy:—

"SIR PIERS EGGEComb to CRUMWELL.

"Plesse it, ywr goode Lordeshyp to be adertyssyd that the Kyngges Majestie hath commandyd me, at my beyng in hys gracijs presens, that in casse I perceyvyd any grugge, or myscontentacyon amonge hys sojettes, I shulde theroff adertyssse ywr Lordeshyp by my wrytyng. Hyt ys now comme to my knowlege, this 20 daye of Apryll, by a ryght trew honest man, a servant off myn; that ther ys moche secrett, and severall communycacyons amonges the Kyngges sojettes; and that off them, in sundry places with in the scheres off Cornwall and Devonsher, be in greate feer and mystrust, what the Kyngges Hyghnes and hys Conseyll schulde meane, to geve in commaundement to the parsons and vycars off every parisse, that they schulde make a booke, and surely to be kept, wher in to be specyfied the namys off as many as be weddyd, and the namys off them that be buryyd, and of all those that be crystnyd. Now yo maye perceyve the myndes off many, what ys to be don, to avoyde ther unserteyn conjecturs, and to contynue and stablysse ther hartes in trew naturell loff, accordyng ther dewties, I referre to ywr wysdom. Ther mystrust ys, that somme charges, more than hath byn in tymes past, schall growe to theym by this occacyon off regestryng of thes thyngges; wher in, yf hyt schall please the Kyngges Majeste to put them yowie off dowte, in my poar mynde schall encrease moche hartly loff. And I beseeche our Lorde preserve yow ever, to Hys pleasser, 20th daye off Apryll. Scrybelyd in hast.

"P. EGGEComb.

[Superscribed]

"To my Lorde Privy Seale ys goode Lordeshyp, be this gevyn."

The above letter is without date as regards the year in which it was written, but Sir Piers having died in August, 1539, and the instructions to keep registers not being issued till the end of the previous year, it was no doubt written on April 20, 1539, only a few months before his death.

E. H. W. DUNKIN.

December 5, 1871.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor will be glad to receive Correspondence on Archaeological matters, and information of discoveries of antiquities, accompanied with drawings of objects, when of sufficient interest, for illustration.]

## A FEW OBSERVATIONS ON PAPER MARKS.

## II.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR,—Writers are in no way decided as to when the manufacture of paper was first introduced into this country. In your last impression I observed that a German was encouraged by Queen Elizabeth to erect a mill at Deptford, in Kent, in 1588. This German was Sir John Spielman. It is, however, very conjectural whether Sir John's paper-mill may be said to have been the first erected in England—the improbability of which I have before stated, *ante* p. 189. Mr. R. Herring carefully notices, in his valuable work on paper-making, that paper mills were in existence here long before Spielman's time. Shakespeare, in the second part of his play of Henry VI., the plot of which appeared laid at least a century previously, refers to a paper mill. In fact he introduces it as an additional weight to the charge which Jack Cade is made to bring against Lord Say.\* The celebrated John Tate *jun.*, who was Lord Mayor of London (1473), had a paper mill in Hertfordshire, in the manor of the Sele. There is still a place near the river Bean, known as "Paper Mil-Mead," so called from the erection of a mill which is supposed to be alluded to in a treatise by W. Vallance, incorporated in Lelan's *Itin. i.e.* "A Tale of Two Swannes." (1590.) R. Clutterbuck states that it is from this book that "we learn, that in the year 1507 there was a paper mill at Hertford belonging to John Tate." (See also "Fenn's Orig. Letters," Vol. I., p. 20.) The household book of King Henry VII. gives the following item, May 25th, 1498. "For a rewarde geven at the paper mylne 16s. 8d." Also in the following year "geven in rewarde to Tate, of the mylne, 6s. 8d." Mr. Herring further observes that it appears far less probable that Shakespeare alluded to this mill, although established at a period corresponding in many respects with that of occurrences referred to in connection, than to that of Sir John Spielman's, which, standing as it did in the immediate neighbourhood of Jack Cade's rebellion, and being esteemed so important at the time as to call forth the marked patronage of Queen Elizabeth.† The following verse has been written on Spielman's establishment:—

"Six hundred men are set to work by him,  
That else might starve or seek abroad their bread,  
Who now live well and go full brave and trim,  
And who may boast they are with paper fed."

Paul Lacroix has evidently been led astray relative to the situation and date of the first paper mill in England. The place named is that of Tate's Mill, and date is that of Spielmans, 1588. See "The Arts in the Middle Ages," p. 422.

Paper marks found in block books assigned to the Netherlands are for the most part confined to the Unicorn, the Anchor, the Bull's Head, the letter P, the letter Y, and the Arms of the dukes of Burgundy, initials of noted persons, and arms of the popes and bishops. Sometimes paper marks had their origin in local and incidental circumstances, or were dictated by the nature of the works or even of the particular part of it in which they are used. For instance, among the early printed books, *i.e.* The Bible printed by Eggesteyn, the mark of the *Crown* is used in the paper in which the book of the *King's* are struck off, the *Bull's Head* having been used in every other part of the work, a

circumstance too remarkable to have proceeded from accident.\* Paper marks were used as symbols in works of art, &c., to denote their chief features with regard to navigation and discovery, the *Ship*, the *Arrow*, the *Ladder*, and the *Eagle*, were the general watermarks used in works on subjects like these. The car or chariot was the arms of the Carara family. Whether the mark found in the Stowe copy of the fifth edition of the Apocalypse is intended to represent a *car* or *plough* is hardly known. A similar mark, though shorter, is found in the account books of the Hague (Abbey of Leenwenhoist), 1416 to 1418; also in Accounts of North Holland and Arkel of the same dates. It is also found in Accounts at Harlem, 1447; and in a letter in the Tower of London, bearing date 1467-73. On the paper of books printed in the 15th century this *car* is very seldom to be found. (See Princip. Typog., as before). Something of a similar kind is given by Jansen, taken from a copy of "Augustinus de Civitate Dei," printed by Peter Schosffer, at Mentz, in 1473.

Waltham Abbey,

December 11, 1871.

W. WINTERS.

(To be continued.)

## "THE DANCE OF POWLLYS."

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR,—I would venture to suggest that this word "Powllys" should be read as [St.] Paul's, meaning the Dance of Death, known as Macaber from Judas Maccabeus, which was formerly painted on the cloister walls of Old St. Paul's, and known throughout England.

This is what Stowe tells us about it:—"About this cloyster was artificially and richly painted the dance of Machabray, or dance of death, commonly called the dance of Pauls; the like whereof was painted about St. Innocent's cloister at Paris in France; the metres or poesie of this daunce were translated out of French into English by John Lidgate, the Monke of Bery, and with ye picture of death, leading all estates painted about ye cloyster; at the special request and dispense of Jankin Carpenter, in the Raigne of Henry the IV."

Jankin Carpenter was executor of the famous Dick Whittington "thrice Lord Mayor," and himself for many years Town Clerk of London; circa 1430.

In the present day this procession is better known by Holbein's pictures. I have now before me a reprint of the whole series, entitled—"The Dance of Death, painted by H. Holbein, and engraved by W. Hollar, London; printed by C. Whittingham, Dean Street, Fetter Lane, for John Harding, 36, St. James's Street, 1804." In the preface it is stated that, "the most ancient still existing is that at Basil (Basle) in Switzerland."

In its first origin, it was known as "the Fall of Princes," and Judas Maccabeus the famous hero of our uncanonical Scriptures led the dance; thus the name has been corrupted to Macabber or Mackabray.

Hans Holbein is known to have cut the whole series on wood, about 1547-8; and Wenceslaus Hollar reproduced the original designs in copper about 1651; his *touched* plates are still in existence.

It will thus be seen that "Paul's Dance" may well have been known to the good people of Bristol in 1449; and it is curious to notice how popular the "Triumph of Judas Maccabæus" became, when all traces of its real meaning and original appearance as part and parcel of a mediæval miracle play, such as is still presented at Ober Ammergau, were lost.

December 7, 1871.

A. HALL.

\* Arts of Paper Making, by R. Herring. † Ibid.

\* Principia, Typog., Vol. III., p. 14.



## "THE GROVES OF BLARNEY."

In *Notes and Queries*, of the 2nd instant, a correspondent of that paper, "E. L. S.," gave, among other snatches of old songs, two verses of a song which, he states, was known as "The Irish Laudation of Lady Jeffries' seat, Castle Hyde," and expressed his regret that the remaining portion of it had escaped his memory. I happen to remember having heard it sung thirty years ago by an old gentleman who informed me that he had learnt it forty years previously, and that even at that time it was considered an old song. But I must state that I know it by a different name. It was known as "The Groves of Blarney," sung to an air which it is said Tom Moore adapted to "The Last Rose of Summer." A few weeks back an old Irish gentleman assured me that there is an older song, "The Banks of the River Lee," to which the air originally belonged.

The words of "The Groves of Blarney" are, to the best of my recollection, as follow:—

"The groves of Blarney,  
That are most charming,  
Down by the purling of sweet silent brooks,  
All deck'd with roses,  
And lovely posies,  
Planted by nature in those mossy nooks.

"Tis there you'll see  
The sweet carnation,  
The blooming May, and the pink so fair,  
The daffydow dilly,  
Likewise the lily,  
All flowers scenting the most fragrant air.

"Tis there the lake's  
Well stored with perches,  
And the cold eels lie in the verdant mud,  
And the trout and salmon,  
All playing at backgammon,  
In the waters of that silvery flood.

"And there's the cave,  
Where no daylight enters,  
And cats and badgers are for ever fed,  
And the moss by nature,  
Is much more completer,  
Than a coach and six, or a downy bed.

"There's maids a stitching,  
Down in the kitchen,  
And mighty prattles that would make you stare,  
There's ham and turkey,  
And beef and whiskey,  
That would make you frisky were you but there.

"Tis there you'll see  
Fat Murphy's daughter,  
Washing prattles 'ninst the door,  
With Judy Neary,  
And Biddy Cleary,  
All brother-relations to my Lord O'Moore.

"There's sunny walks there  
For contemplation,  
And meditation by the brook.  
Tis there the lover  
Might meet his dover,  
In flowery grotto, or some sylvan nook.

"And if a lady  
Would be so engaging,  
As to take a walk down just by there,  
Why then the courtier  
Would sure transport her  
To some soft green bank or bowyer fair.

"There's statues gracin'  
That noble place in,  
All heathen gods and goddesses so fair;  
There's Neptune, Plutarch,  
And old Nicodemus,  
All standing naked in the open air.

"And now to finish,  
My bold narration,  
Which my poor genius could ne'er entwine.  
But were I Homer,  
Or that grass-eating rascal Nebuchadnezzar,  
I'd make each feature in it for to shine.

THOS. C. F.

P.S.—Does any one know the name of the author of the song "Crazy Jane?" I believe it was popular 80 or 100 years since.

## THE ROMAN VILLA AT NORTHLEIGH.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR,—I am anxious to direct the attention of your readers to the present neglected state of the interesting Roman Villa at Northleigh, near Oxford.

It would be needless to dilate upon the extreme value and importance of these remains of Roman art and civilization in the immediate neighbourhood of Oxford. There are few, if any, of the very few perfect Roman villas in England which can compare with this one either as to size or extent, or as to general preservation, and there is certainly not one which is more appositely situated for being studied by those interested in the ancient civilization and art of which it is such a valuable relic. Such, however, is the present condition of the remains, that unless some immediate steps be taken, the care and attention paid to their preservation when originally uncovered in 1815-16 will have been in vain.

The remains at present existing consist of the foundation walls of a very extensive quadrangle, with its adjacent rooms and porticos, and of one or two chambers, in a more or less well preserved state. On the north side this quadrangle measures 167 feet in length, on the east side 212 feet, on the south side 153 feet, and on the west side 186 feet. The number of the chambers which were either wholly or partially uncovered amounts to over sixty, many of which had their tessellated floors well preserved, whilst in others only slight traces of the tesserae were discoverable. At present these walls are little more than grassy mounds; they have been left neglected and uncared for, and openly exposed to the weather, and in many cases it is almost impossible to follow the plan of the quadrangle and adjacent rooms.

Of the few chambers which were discovered in a more or less perfect state, the most important is that situated in the north-west corner of the quadrangle. This room is 33 feet long and 20 feet broad, with walls of more than 3 feet in thickness. Below the floor of this room is the hypocaust, extremely well preserved, and the curious pillars made of tiles which support the floor are still quite perfect. The funnels in the walls by which the hot air flowed in to the rooms, and the flues by which the smoke of the fire escaped, as well as the præfurnium, or place where the wood fire was made in the hypocaust, are well shown. There are seventy-nine pillars in all, which support the tessellated pavement, and raise it some three feet above the floor of the hypocaust. This tessellated pavement, which is of a very simple and elegant pattern, was, when discovered, almost perfect.

Such was the interest taken in these remains when they were discovered in 1815-16 that a subscription was raised in Oxford, whereby a substantial shed was built over this room and one or two others, and it is to the present dilapidated condition of this shed that I would direct attention. One of the main beams which supported the roof has rotted away, and partly fallen on the tessellated pavement below, whilst the thatched roof has also given way in many places, and so affords no proper protection against the weather. Thus after very heavy rain a portion of the pavement is in a pool of water, which seriously injures and lessens the tesserae. A small sum of money would suffice to put this shed into a state of thorough repair, whilst the longer it is allowed to continue in its present state the greater will be the trouble and expense of repairing it, independent of the damage which must accrue to the tessellated pavement.

At the northern corner of the quadrangle are the chambers containing the hot and cold baths, which when found were very perfect, but of which now only the former is well shown, but in a very dirty and neglected condition.

On the north-eastern side of the quadrangle a large chamber, 28 feet long by 22 feet broad, was discovered in 1815, on the floor of which another very beautiful tessellated pavement existed in a very perfect state, and it is stated that a building was erected over it to keep it from decay. Of this building no vestige now remains; the tessellated pavement,

if not entirely lost, is hidden by the grass and weeds which have grown over it, and which render it very difficult to recognise even the site of the chamber.

Indications of other pavements were found during the excavations in 1815-16, but not fully examined, and many rooms were hardly explored at all. It would be very desirable if the whole of the remains could be again carefully explored, as there is but little doubt that much of a very interesting character would be discovered.

Of the Roman Villa found at Stonesfield in 1711-12, and re-opened in 1779, no remains are believed now to exist, with the exception of a small portion of the tessellated pavement preserved in the Ashmolean Museum. Even the very site of this Villa, of which the area was traced to be about 190 feet by 152 feet, can now with difficulty be recognised.

During the making of the Great Western Railway some little distance beyond Northleigh and Stonesfield another tessellated pavement was cut through, and no regard being paid to it, it was entirely destroyed, and the materials used on the line, so that it is now impossible even to fix its site.

It was in order to prevent the remains of the Roman Villa at Northleigh disappearing like those just referred to that the Committee of the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society, in the summer of this year, laid the present state of the remains before the Duke of Marlborough on whose estate the Villa is situated. It was somewhat confidently hoped that the same zeal which he displays in political conservatism would also be shown in antiquarian conservatism, and that he would give orders to have the necessary repairs executed before the winter set in. Up to the present time, however, no reply has been received by the Society, and on visiting the Villa, on Tuesday last, I found that not only had no repairs been carried out, but that no attention whatever had been paid to them. Under these circumstances we can only hope that by the voice of public opinion something may yet be done—for it cannot surely be considered a creditable thing in this 19th century to suffer such interesting remains to be destroyed, and to allow the forethought of those who preserved them so carefully to be rendered useless by the neglect of their present owner.

Yours faithfully,

J. P. EARWAKER,

Hon. Sec. of Oxford Architectural and Historical Society.

Merton College, November 29, 1871.

#### A BRITISH BURIAL-PLACE.

UNDER the direction of three officers of the British Archaeological Association, a series of very interesting researches in what has proved to be an ancient British burial-place, between Feltham and Sunbury, have lately taken place, the expense attending the excavations being very liberally borne by Mr. Thomas Ashby, of Staines. On the two occasions of a very careful examination of the field in which the discovery was first made by Mr. Lennard, a farmer of Sunbury, no less than some fifteen urns, of unburnt clay, of different sizes and shapes, have been brought to light, and eight of these ancient vessels, containing burnt bones, small fragments of charcoal, and a few flint arrow-heads, successfully taken from the earth, where they have possibly laid for between two and three thousand years. These urns will be exhibited at the opening meeting of this British Archaeological Association, on the 22nd inst., when a paper will be read on the subject of the interesting find by Mr. Edward Roberts, F.S.A., with notes and explanatory remarks by Messrs. George Wright and W. H. Black.

#### SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

*[Secretaries of Archaeological and Antiquarian Societies throughout the Kingdom will confer a favour by forwarding to the Editor of this Journal all Notices and Reports of Meetings, and also their Periodical Publications.]*

#### THE ROYAL ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

A MEETING was held on Friday, the 1st instant, when Sir E. Smirke was in the chair.

The Secretary reported the result of a visit made by him to Southampton, to arrange the necessary preliminaries for the Annual Meeting in 1872. The Bishop of Winchester had accepted the Presidency of the Meeting, and the Institute would be well received at Southampton.

Mr. Hewitt sent "A Notice of Venetian Bronze Guns recovered by Sponge Divers at the Isle of Symi, in the Mediterranean, and obtained for the Royal Artillery Museum at Woolwich," which was read by the Secretary. The guns were of the 16th century, and were a portion of the armament of a vessel which had been sunk in a storm or fight, of which nothing was known. A sketch of the example acquired for the Woolwich Museum was exhibited, showing it to be one of the ordinary chambered guns.

Mr. Hewitt added some remarks with reference to the relative strength and bore of ancient cannon used for iron or stone shot.

Mr. Tregellas adverted to some examples of cannon of special construction.

The Secretary read a memoir, by Mr. C. W. King, "On an Antique Medallion of Blue-Glass Paste, a Portrait of Antonia, Wife of Drusus, Brother of Tiberius; found with Roman remains at Stanwix, on the Line of the Roman Wall." An engraving of this object is given in Dr. Bruce's "History of the Roman Wall," and Mr. King discussed the arguments which had led him to the attribution of the person intended to be represented by the medallion in lieu of that hitherto accepted.

Dr. Carne sent a singular object of bronze, which had been found in a stone coffin in a barrow at Llantwit Major. The object, about six inches in length, appeared to be a kind of fork, with a small hook between the prongs, and having four rings attached to loops. No satisfactory explanation of the article was given.

Mrs. Meadows Frost exhibited four papal medals with profiles of Our Lord.

Père Victor de Buch sent a book of "Hours," a fine example of Flemish illumination of about 1485; it had been executed for the Chevalier Croesinck, Seigneur de Beuthuisen et de Joetemeen; also a smaller volume of "Hours," of about 1500.

#### THE MEETING AT SOUTHAMPTON NEXT YEAR.

THE Town Council of Southampton met on the 30th ult. to confer with Mr. Joseph Burt, of the Royal Archaeological Institute, with reference to its meeting in Southampton next year.

Mr. Burt said he attended there on behalf of the Royal Archaeological Institute, and to do his duty as far as he could in explaining the details connected with the meeting which they proposed to hold at Southampton during next summer. The proceedings in connection with their annual meetings commenced in 1844, and at present their meeting was formed into three sections—the formation of a temporary museum, illustrative of the objects of antiquity which might be found and collected together in the immediate locality, and also the surrounding district; the reading of papers and the delivery of addresses upon objects of interest, and illustrative of the early proceedings of their ancestors, and the arrangement of excursions from the town to places of interest. These were the principal heads of the business

which would be done by the Institute. One of the first points to be considered was the accommodation which could be afforded, and he had gone over the Corporation property. He had gone over the Hartley Institution, where he was courteously received by Dr. Bond, through the introduction of their worthy town clerk (Mr. R. S. Pearce), and he must say he was perfectly satisfied with the accommodation offered to the Institute he represented. The large room would be exceedingly suitable for them, while the other rooms would do well for the museum. With reference to the delivery of addresses he thought that should be done at the Guildhall, as it was somewhat connected with the objects of the Institute, and therefore he thought that should be the place for the reading of papers and the delivery of addresses. With reference to the excursions, they should try and bring within their grasp visits to Beaulieu, in the New Forest, and Carisbrooke Castle, in the Isle of Wight, and there were other objects of great interest in the immediate vicinity, and of far more interest and importance than the people of Southampton were acquainted with—he referred to the excavations which were being carried on at Silchester, near to Basingstoke, by direction of the Duke of Wellington. These excavations had been the subject of much care and attention by a member of the Institute, who had already given some account to the Society of Antiquaries, but the subject had never been so fully brought before the public as they hoped to be enabled to do. Then there were two other places in the immediate vicinity of Southampton to which he hoped they would be able to give some attention—Romsey and Winchester. In places where they had intended to visit their great fear was that the objects of antiquarian interest would not be sufficient to engage their attention during the meeting, but he was happy to say that would not be the case at Southampton, as there would be plenty to interest them. With regard to the local museum, that should be made one of the most gratifying points connected with the gathering, and it should combine a very large range of objects. It ought to contain, among others, things showing the manners and customs of the early settlers in the island, with the implements and such-like they used. Coming down to the Romans and the Saxons, he did not think they would have any trouble in getting relics of them. Another subject which would also be of great interest was relics of local worthies, such as their portraits and other things connected with their history. Then they might also produce evidences of the early condition of the town, and things to show how rapid had been its growth, and articles of dress, and so forth, might be produced as specimens of what was worn in earlier times. Then they might produce portraits of great county families, old arms, dresses, antique seals of private families, and many things of that sort which would be interesting. Southampton in mediæval times was a great port of debarcation, as from it Henry V. embarked for Harfleur before fighting the battle of Agincourt; then, again, many of the Crusaders started from here, and, although in more modern times Southampton had been shut out from the naval history of the country by its great rival Portsmouth, yet there were old associations of naval history which were as much wrapped up in Southampton as at Portsmouth. There were many things which would connect Southampton with the naval history of the country, and it seemed to him there might be the means of getting at the old arms and other evidences of the olden time and of the great sea captains. With reference to their own proceedings at the meeting, they would commence with the inaugural meeting in the great room of the Hartley Institute. He was happy to announce that the Lord Bishop of the Diocese had consented to preside at it, and he would give an address relative to the objects of the meeting and its application to Southampton. Then they would no doubt have addresses from others—from representative persons in the county—such as Lord Henry Scott, M.P., and the Right Hon. W. F. Cowper-Temple, M.P., whom he considered representative men. Then the addresses to be delivered, the papers to be read,

and other things, would be arranged for the continuance of the meeting. After the inaugural meeting, the local museum would be thrown open to the meeting. He thought now he had given them all the information he possessed.

#### LIVERPOOL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

THE fortnightly meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday evening, the 5th inst., in the small lecture-room of the Free Library, William Brown-Street, when there was a good attendance of members and visitors, the president, Mr. Chapman, in the chair.

After the preliminary business of the evening had been concluded, and the auditors elected, several interesting papers on numismatics were read. Many coins, medals, curiosities, &c., were exhibited, amongst which we notice the following:—

By Mr. Charles Lionel Reis (the honorary secretary), a fine series of bronze Napoleonic medals; by Mr. Gustav H. Ahlborn, a brass medal of Henry IV. of France, a brass medal of St. Martin, and an old silver coin of Prussia; by Mr. David Thom Stewart, a ten-centime piece struck during the siege of Pasis, 1870, obverse, a demi-wreath of laurel, within 10 (for the value ten centimes), below the wreath of the mint letter A (Paris), and the date 1870, at each side a cinquefoil, inscription, "Republique Française;" reverse, a balloon, at each end of the car a tricolour, inscription, "Gt. de la Défense Nationale;" a medal struck by the Commune, 1871; obverse, bust of the ex-Emperor Napoleon III. (wearing a Prussian helmet), to left, at each side of the bust a death's head, inscription, "Napoleon III. Le Misérable," and below the bust, "2 Decembre;" reverse, a vampire displayed (the face having the features of the ex-Emperor) holding thunderbolts in its talons, at each side the crossbones, description, "Vampire de la France," below the vampire, "Sedan, 2 Septembre, 1870," and a bronze medal of Arnauld, theologian, 1612-1694.

#### THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHITECTURAL AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE usual bi-monthly meeting of this Society was held on Monday, the 27th ult., Mr. James Thompson in the chair. The following Papers were contributed:—By Mr. James Thompson, on "A Discovery of Ancient Coins near to Hinckley." By the Rev. Mackenzie E. C. Walcott, F.S.A., "An Inventory of S. Mary's Benedictine Nunnery, at Langley, county Leicester, 1485." The transcriber of this curious document described it, as he believed, unique, as being an account of the entire furniture of a convent before the dissolution of monasteries. It also furnishes the names of the Prioresses, not given in the "Monasticon" or by Nichols. This addition to county history will appear in the next volume of the associated societies.

Mr. John Hunt, of Thurnby, having exhibited a tray full of relics of various periods, from the Roman to the present, found beneath the level of Thurnby Church, in the foundations, and about the fabric, read a paper upon the subject, as follows—

"Thurnby Church, dedicated to St. Luke, consisted of a nave, a large south aisle, and a small low north aisle, each separated from the nave by three lofty arches, over each of which was a clerestory window. The tower was at the east end, and contained four bells. The ancient chancel was taken down in 1779. The work of demolition was commenced by first taking down the pinnacles and parapet of the tower, below which was a moulded cornice, with figure-heads and four gargoyles; the roof of the tower being of lead, some of which was very thick. The four windows of the upper stage of the tower, which served as a bell-chamber, were of the decorated style, in tolerable preservation, and the head of each was cut out of one solid stone. This upper stage of the tower was found to be partly built of the stone

of an old spire; for on taking it down the foreman discovered the ancient stone to be cut through and re-used as ashlar. Upon placing some of these stones together, he succeeded in making seven feet of the spire perfect, and upon calculation from the quantity found it was presumed there was sufficient to build a spire forty or fifty feet high. The tower was carried internally by four arches, resting upon four massive Norman pillars. The N.E. and S.E. columns were cracked and much decayed. On the east end of the tower remained a portion of the chancel wall, forming a buttress to support the tower, with part of a small lancet window blocked up. The opposite buttress was not a portion of chancel wall. At the east end of the south aisle were discovered, under the plaster, two sedilia and a piscina, and in the east wall, on each side of the altar, an aumbrey; the one on the north side, fourteen inches higher from the ground than the other, and smaller. The lintel of this small one was found to be a portion of an ancient incised stone described hereafter. Under the east window of this aisle was found a recess, decorated with a margin of scroll-work in black and red, containing four lines in Old English characters, coloured. This was probably the position of the altar-piece or table in mediæval times.

"It need scarcely be remarked that in taking down an ancient church like that of Thurnby, many curious relics, of almost every century of mediæval times, were brought to light. What, however, I wish specially to draw your attention to, was the discovery of several singularly incised stones, which, from their peculiarity, at once demand attention. The first of these stones, when found, was forming what we may call the lintel of the aumbrey, or locker, at the end of the south aisle; the others were found built in the south-west pillar. These stones I exhibited in the temporary museum formed by the Royal Archaeological Institute in Leicester, during the Congress of that learned body in this town in the autumn of 1869, and were then subjected to much examination and criticism by several eminent archaeologists. The general if not the unanimous opinion then given referred these very curious stones to the Saxon period. From their shape and other peculiarities, they were supposed to be headstones of graves. It will be seen they are incised on both sides, in what may be termed geometrical lines, without any attempt at lettering, and apparently without any tinge of symbolism, excepting that the cross in various forms is traceable in nearly every case. There appears a certain amount of design in the arrangement of the lines; indeed, in what may be called the reverse of No. 1, the pattern may not unfairly be described as consisting of eight double cross crosslets radiating from a common centre.

"The great rarity of stones of this description renders an attempt even at explanation difficult, and a guess at their true origin uncertain. It is, however, fortunate for our present object that others of a somewhat similar character have been exhumed in Yorkshire. The little church of Adel, in the West Riding, is described as being almost, if not altogether, a pure Norman church of the middle of the twelfth century. The stones there found were discovered in the foundation or groundwork of the church, and so pointing to an earlier origin than the building. It is difficult to assign a date to the Adel stones, inasmuch as the parish produces British remains, pit dwellings, a monolith, a Roman entrenchment; and there is an entire absence of any decided type—Roman, Anglo-Saxon, or Norman—in their design. I would refer you to the remarks of the Rev. H. T. Simpson and others, as given in the *Archæological Journal* for 1870, p. 77. It appears from these remarks, and from a correspondence which has taken place between the vicar of Thurnby and the Rev. H. T. Simpson, the rector of Adel, that several eminent archaeologists have been consulted respecting the Adel stones. A few of these opinions I give as bearing upon our enquiry. Professor Westwood (who

has paid special attention to these early relics) assigns them to some time ranging from the eleventh to the thirteenth century, and says they are undoubtedly headstones. The late Sir James Simpson thought them tombstones of about the ninth century. Canon Greenwell considers them very early Norman. It will thus be seen that the learned men whose opinions I have quoted upon the Adel stones do not agree as to their date. Mr. Simpson himself remarks, with some force, that it seems difficult to suppose they are Early Norman, when they were broken up as rubbish for the foundation of the Norman Church at Adel in about the year 1135; and he further remarks, 'I think they bear notable marks of Pagan origin.' I may here remark that whilst remembering that, so far as I know, it has yet to be proved that headstones for graves were used at all in Saxon times, these stones, being incised on both sides of the upper part, were evidently intended to stand detached. The result of the comparison between the Yorkshire and the Leicestershire stones will, I think, prove that while both sets were made for a common purpose, the Adel stones are the more ancient of the two. The designs incised upon the Leicestershire stones are better defined and more regular in arrangement than those upon the Adel stones; and our Leicestershire stones have, I think, at any rate, a faint outline of Christianity on their surface; but whether Saxon or Norman, I cannot say. I hope the questions raised by these discoveries may induce others more competent than myself to follow up the enquiry. The church originally was a Norman structure, as proved by the four circular massive pillars supporting the tower, the drip-stones on the same, and its cruciform arrangement. The Anglo-Norman conventual churches were mostly cruciform in plan with a low tower rising at the intersection of the choir and nave with the transepts. Yet I should imagine, from the incised stones, and the quantity of burnt stones found built up in the walls, that a church anterior to the Norman period existed; and it is well known that during the ninth and tenth centuries the Northmen or Danes were continually plundering and burning our sacred edifices. That the church was taken down and rebuilt some time towards the latter end of the twelfth or early in the beginning of the thirteenth century, is almost incontestably proved by the pointed arches of the tower which were first introduced about this period. The church was pulled down a second time, and rebuilt about the middle or the latter end of the thirteenth century, as shown by the Early English fragments of windows, caps and arch-stone; also an apex found in the course of pulling down lately. The mural paintings found on these various fragments point unquestionably to the Early English date; these fragments being re-faced, re-worked, and re-used in the structure. A third time the church has been pulled down, as indicated by the bases of the nave arcade columns; these being of the Early Perpendicular period, some time in the fifteenth century."

#### SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL ARCHÆOLOGY.

A MEETING of this Society was held on Tuesday, the 5th inst., at their rooms, 9 Conduit Street, when Professor Donaldson, M.I.B.A., was in the chair.

Mr. T. D. Murray and Professor C. C. Babington were proposed by the Council for election as Members.

A paper, by Le Chev. de Sauley, *Membre de l'Institut*, &c., "On the True Sites of Capernaum, Chorazin and Bethsaida (Julius)" was read by the Secretary.

In this paper (which took the form of a letter addressed to the Dean of Westminster), M. de Sauley stated, that having reconsidered the whole tenour of the argument first advanced by him in the *Revue Archéologique* twenty years ago, he could come to no other conclusion than that the traditional town of Bethsaida, and the identification of Kerāzeh as Chorazin and Tel Hum as Capernaum, were unsupported by geographical evidence, and were contrary to the express statements



of Josephus, who would be sufficiently accurate in describing the town where he was wounded. At the same time, the ruins of Kerāzeh were too extensive to be those of an insignificant village like Chorazin, and those of the supposititious Bethsaida were contrariwise too few, and contained no indications of the family mausoleum of Herod Philip. He concluded that Tel Hum was more probably the real site of Capernaum and that the ruins of Abou Shushah and a considerable amount of philological evidence illustrated these statements.

At the close of the reading of this paper an interesting discussion ensued, in which the Chairman and the following gentlemen took part, W. R. A. Boyle, Esq., Dr. Cull, S. M. Drach, J. Macgregor, Esq., M.A., and Captain Wilson.

#### OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

THE second walk this season took place on the 25th ult., when the Church of St. Mary Magdalen and Trinity College were visited.

Mr. James Parker gave a brief outline of the early history of the church. He said that it dated from a period soon after the Norman Conquest. At that time Oxford was in the diocese of Lincoln, and there were now existing in the chapter-house in that city a series of documents, which it was a great misfortune for them were not printed, as they would throw much light upon the buildings in Oxford. Robert D'Oily founded the Castle, and attached to it the Church of St. Mary Magdalen, which was outside the north gate of Oxford. It appeared from Anthony Wood that a Chantry was founded here in 1194, in the time of Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln. No work of this date now remained. A Chantry was supposed to have existed on the south side of the church in 1388, and the windows on that side seemed to agree with that date. Mr. Parker observed that the Oxford Architectural Society, by reviving the true principles of Gothic in church restoration, had been the means in a great measure of making it difficult to decide what was of modern date and what ancient in many of their old buildings. It was impossible in many instances to decide what was old and what was new, because many old stones were scraped over, and in others only a little alteration had been made in the mouldings. Wood, in describing the church at the close of the 17th century, says, it was fifty-four feet long and thirty-two feet wide, exclusive of the chancel, and that it consisted of a nave and two aisles, the north aisle reaching to the top of the nave, above which were two small chapels. It was difficult to understand what he meant by chancel in a church like that. Perhaps he meant the southernmost aisle, for it was said that there was an altar set up against the south wall. The date of the south aisle was probably in Edward II.'s time. The north aisle had been entirely rebuilt. It had originally a chapel for students of Balliol College, anterior to the year 1293, when they had permission to perform divine service in their own college. That portion of the church used by the students was dedicated to St. Catherine. The tower was commenced in 1511. At the north-west corner of the north or Martyrs' aisle might be seen the actual door of the cell in Bocardo, where the martyrs were confined. The martyrdom of the two bishops, Latimer and Ridley, took place in the centre of Broad Street, they being burnt in the then town ditch.

Mr. James Parker gave an outline of the early history of Trinity College, which was next visited, and remarked that both Trinity and Worcester Colleges were founded on the site of more ancient halls or colleges. Gloucester Hall, now Worcester College, was first founded in 1283, and belonged to one monastery only; but in 1291 it became a hall for all the Benedictine monks throughout the country. Durham College, which was now called Trinity College, might be said to be founded by Hugo de Derlington, because he sent

scholars to Oxford in 1285; but he found that Richard de Hoton built a place for them about 1290. It appeared, from the register of St. Frideswide, that a grant of two plots of land was made from the Convent of St. Frideswide to the monks of Durham, in the suburbs of Oxford, and in St. Mary Magdalen parish. A more important grant of land, belonging to Godstowe Nunnery, was made to them about the same time, or, perhaps, in the year 1291. He found that this includes "all their arable londes, the which they had fro a diche thurt over in Beaumont, that is to say, from the londe of Philipp Ho Burgeys, of Oxenforde, unto the londe that was of Roger Semer, in the same tilthe, in the subarbis of Oxenforde." There was a confirmation of this grant in the Patent Rolls, 19 Edward I. (1291), in which were mentioned three and a half acres by Roger Semer, one acre by Thomas Leswegs, and one acre by Walter Bost. Another Roll of the same time mentioned the gift of single "tofts" by Laurence de Juvene, John de Sclater, and Henry de Diteneshale, and of two "tofts" by John Feteplace and Richard de Dedyngton, besides five acres given by Gilbert, the son of Amicia. All these lay round the habitations of the monks, outside the north wall of Oxford. Mr. Parker then went on to explain the situation of these lands, and quoted from the document which referred to the King's Highway, and observed that on this document a great deal would depend in deciding as to whether the Parks Road was a public highway or not. It was found that on the election of Robert de Greystanes, Prior of Durham, in 1366, mention was made amongst the "compromissarii" of Johannes de Beverlaco, "Prior Oxonie." This meant that John of Beverley was the Prior of Durham College. What was going on in Oxford at this time was not shown in the Durham Rolls, to which they were mainly indebted for their information, till 1345, when Thomas Hatfield succeeded Richard de Bury as Bishop of Durham. The latter gave a great library of books, and, no doubt, left money in his will, which was not expended at once.

In the Durham Rolls it was said of the great builder at Durham that he refounded this college, "*Prateria Collegium octo monachorum studentium in loco Monachorum Dunelmensium Oxonie super Candige fundavit.*" This candige, or can-ditch, Mr. Parker explained, ran outside the city wall on the south side of Broad Street. In 1410, a Bull was obtained from Pope John XXIII., giving them permission to bury in the chapel of the college. This was the chapel shown in Loggan's View of the College (which was handed round to the company). The chapel appeared, from this view, to have been built early in the 15th or even late in the 14th century. It was not of so early a date as mentioned by Wood, who spoke of it as being erected in 1330. There was a chapel then, and even before that time, but it had been rebuilt. He (Mr. Parker) believed that the chapel was built about 1380—perhaps with Bishop Hatfield's money. Everything was confiscated in the reign of Henry VIII., and Durham College seemed to have given place to the present Trinity College, the founder of which was Sir Thomas Pope, who had been appointed "Treasurer of the Court of Augmentations," and had conducted as part of his duties the sale of the monastic possessions. He saw the injury that was being inflicted by the confiscation of this property, and no doubt from that circumstance, and his holding the above office, it suggested to him the purchase of this property, and the money that he put into his pocket by those sales with one hand he took out with the other. Hence it was that the college was refounded. The first president was admitted under the new foundation in the year 1556. No new buildings were erected by Sir Thomas, but Dr. Kettel, who was president from 1599 to 1643, added a good many out-buildings (and also cocklofts) as Wood terms them. What Wood meant by the latter was chambers in the roof, several of which were now remaining. The present hall was begun in 1618 and finished in 1620. Dr. Bathurst, who was president

from 1664 to 1704, added most to the college; he rebuilt the greater part of the president's lodgings, and began the north side of the new northern quadrangle. This was completed in 1667, and was shown standing by itself in Loggan's view of 1673. The west side of the same quadrangle was completed in 1682, as the date upon it showed. A common-room was built in 1665, and gates set up in 1667 leading to the grove. Numerous contributions of money were recorded at this time. Dr. Bathurst repaired and reopened the old chapel. The money, however, was too plentiful, and the old chapel shown in the view (and a fine specimen of the 14th or 15th century) was pulled down in 1691, and by 1694 the present structure was nearly completed, to match with the new buildings, and in accordance with the classic taste of the age. From correspondence which exists it appears that Sir Christopher Wren made suggestions for placing the building of the college, but his design, which was similar to the building at Versailles, was not carried out. Some additions and alterations were made in 1728, and the additional storey to the north side of the quadrangle, in place of the roof and dormer windows as shown in Loggan's view, was made in 1805.

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#### REVIEW.

*Stifford and its Neighbourhood, Past and Present.* By WILLIAM PALIN, M.A., Rector of Stifford, 1871. (To be had only by direct application to the author.)

It is always an agreeable task to turn over the pages of a beautifully "got up" and well illustrated book on the history, topography, and antiquities of any portion of Her Majesty's dominions. The work now before us, descriptive of a district in the south of Essex, is one of these, and is really deserving of far more praise than we can attempt to give it in a brief notice of this kind. It is, to say the least, a handsome volume, printed in a first-class style of typography and adorned with a large number of exceedingly graphic illustrations from sketches and photographs, executed in the best style of lithography. All the churches in the neighbourhood of Stifford, with one exception, are faithfully depicted, and sometimes interior as well as exterior views are given. The church at Stanford-le-Hope is so strikingly delineated that we cannot help directing particular attention to it, while the interior view of Stifford Church shows, since its restoration in 1861-3, what the inside of every village church should be. We may safely say that the illustrations by themselves would be worth the greater part of the purchase money for the entire volume. Our only regret is that the author has not deemed it expedient to publish the book in the usual way, so that the public might have had better opportunities of appreciating his labours. We understand that a few surplus copies may still be had at the very moderate price of half-a-guinea.

And now a word or two on the letterpress. The work commences with a general view of Stifford and its neighbourhood, concisely treating of the religious history, roads, churches, education, scenery, manors, antiquities and many other points of interest. On the churches, within the district, our author makes the following general observations:—

"As would be expected in a chalk district, the churches are built of flint, dating from the twelfth to the fifteenth century. There are parts of some of them of somewhat earlier date, as will be shown (along with later additions or alterations, sometimes meekly intended as improvements upon the original design), under the several parishes. The general rule of building out of the natural produce of the district is seen to have been followed by the preference shown for wooden spires, from the district abounding in those days in forest timber. There are exceptions, but where there are towers only they are generally low, having had spires, until the latter perished from lightning or

decay. In estimating the general character of our churches, it is but fair to bear in mind the singular fatality attending them in former times by the destruction of towers and spires, generally by lightning, as might be expected from their being surrounded by forest; in one instance by Dutch cannon balls. The rule of using the produce of the district was general in those days, and necessarily so when, from impracticable roads, heavy materials were with difficulty conveyed any long distance. They are by no means imposing, but as ancient themselves and abounding as they do generally in brasses and other sepulchral memorials of more or less antiquity, they are deeply interesting to all who, in a fast age, find help and refreshment in tearing themselves away from the cares and worries of the present to contemplate the past."

Subsequently each of these sacred fanes is separately described with much perspicuity, as well as the schools, benefactions, clergy and churchwardens, families, and statistics of the several parishes in the neighbourhood of Stifford. Various extracts are also given from the parish registers and churchwardens' accounts which tend to throw much light on the local history of the last three centuries. The following "Vestory Bill, April 21st, 1747," is a sample of the bill of fare at the Easter convivialities at Stifford in the last century, paid out of church-rate funds.

	£	s.	d.
"To the Dresing of Diner	...	...	0 5 0
Ale	...	...	0 2 10
Sydr	...	...	0 2 3
Wine	...	...	0 3 0
Punch	...	...	0 6 0
Pd. for Beef	...	...	0 10 6
Do Lamb	...	...	0 3 6
Pidgon Poy	...	...	0 8 0
Pudens	...	...	0 4 0
Braed	...	...	0 1 8
The Poor Ale	...	...	0 5 6
			2 12 3"

We must, however, leave our readers to peruse the book for themselves if they wish to learn all about Stifford and its neighbourhood, a term that by-the-bye includes the parishes of Grays Thurrock, Little Thurrock, Chadwell St. Mary, East and West Tilbury, Mucking, Stanford-le-Hope, Corringham, Fobbing, Horndon-on-Hill, Laindon Hill, Bulphan, Orsett and Aveley. The work, indeed, is full of pleasant reading, and it will find a permanent resting-place on the library book-shelf. Nor must we omit to add that a supplementary volume entitled "More about Stifford, &c.," is partly in type for subscribers only. In conclusion, we cordially recommend our readers to lose no time in securing for themselves a copy of both works before the list of subscribers for the second volume is closed.

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#### ARCHÆOLOGY IN INDIA.

THE local authorities in the Oosoor Talug, of the Salem District, in Madras, have sanctioned the sum of 200 reals, for the opening of the cairns and cromlechs which exist there with a view of collecting some specimens of ancient weapons of warfare. These weapons will be placed in the London Museum.

The golden Htee, made of solid gold, ornamented with rubies, and presented to the Shoay Dagon Pagoda by the King of Burma, was expected shortly to reach Rangoon from Mandalay. A high Burmese official, a hundred soldiers, and several phoongyees were to accompany the Htee as an escort. The *Rangoon Gazette* says that there is an old Burmese prophecy to the effect that when the King of Burma crowns the Shoay Dagon Pagoda he will recover possession of Pegu within a year from that date.

## DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT WARWICK CASTLE.

THIS grand old baronial mansion of the Earl of Warwick, so familiar to every tourist, and so attractive to artists and antiquaries, was the scene of a destructive fire on Sunday, the 3rd instant. An alarm was raised, and messengers were despatched to Leamington, Kenilworth, and Coventry for assistance, which speedily arrived, but the flames had, however, made such progress, that entire destruction seemed inevitable. The front part of the castle was inaccessible from its height above the river, and consequently the burning structure could only be played upon from the courtyard, where there was only a limited supply of water. So quick was the progress of the flames, that the whole east wing was speedily gutted. The only things saved were a few of the most valuable pictures and some books. Meanwhile the fire was leaping across the staircase and attacking the hall, with its carved Gothic roof, emblazoned with heraldic devices, its floor of Venetian marble, and its curious antique wainscoting hung round with ancient arms and armour. Here was Cromwell's battered helmet, and the doublet in which Lord Brooke died at Lichfield. It also contained antique statues, ancient tombs, and other curiosities, which have all perished. Through the chinks between the massive doors separating the Great Hall and the Red Drawing-room the flames could be seen. Preparations were therefore made for the worst, by stripping this and adjoining apartments of their almost priceless treasures. The pictures by Rembrandt, Vandyke, and Rubens, were borne to a place of safety, and when every portable article of value was removed, still further precautions were deemed necessary. The gilt drawing-room, and state bed-room were also cleared of their principal contents. The tapestry round the state bed-room, made in Brussels in 1694, was carried to a place of security, together with the portraits of "Queen Anne," by Kneller, the "Earl of Essex," by Zuccheri, and other rare paintings. The pictures by Holbein, Rubens, Vandyke, Titians, Salvator Rosa, Sir Peter Lely, and Caracci's "Dead Christ" were also taken down. The costly tables and treasures in the cabinets were carried to the remotest corner of the castle, ready to be again moved in case of necessity. Fortunately, the efforts of the firemen practically arrested the fire at the end of the great hall. The damage, however, done to the building can hardly be estimated. Many of the most valuable contents of the castle have been damaged by hasty removal. Lady Warwick only left the castle on Friday, and Lord Broke on Saturday. Lord Warwick had been at Torquay for a few days. Lady Eva Greville and the Hon. Sydney Greville were sleeping over the dining-hall when the fire broke out, but, happily, neither was injured. Her ladyship's jewels are safe, and also the plate, the apartments in the basement, where there is a large fireproof safe, being hardly injured, except by the heat of the burning apartments above, and the water thrown upon the fire. The cause of the fire has not been ascertained. Some men had been employed on Saturday painting and decorating that part of the building where the fire is supposed to have originated; but it is stated that there was no fire in this part of the castle.

Active preparations have since been begun for the work of restoration and repair rendered necessary by the ruin resulting from the fire. With regard to the walls of the hall, it is some comfort to find that their stability has not been interfered with, and the room can, therefore, be easily restored to its former grandeur. There is no crack or fissure of any significance in the surrounding masonry, and the work of restoration will therefore be confined to a new roof, and the redecoration of the walls.

Among the works of art rescued is a small painting of the bust of Shakespeare in Stratford Old Church, of inestimable value as a work of great national interest. On the back there is a label containing the following memorandum:—"This old painting of the monumental effigy of Shakespeare

is a great curiosity, being one painted by Hall before he recoloured the bust in 1748. The letters proving this are in the possession of Mr. Richard Greene, F.S.A., who printed them some years ago in *Fraser's Magazine*. I purchased this picture of Mr. Greene who is the lineal descendant of the Rev. Joseph Greene, of Stratford, the owner of the painting, about 1770.—J. O. HALLIWELL."

## THE OLD DEPTFORD DOCKYARD.

DEPTFORD DOCKYARD, dismantled and degraded from its olden service to the Navy, has just been converted into a foreign cattle market and shambles. In recording the change we mention some leading points of historical interest which circle about the scene. Here, at the Stone House, King Edward III. frequently resided; here stood, until 1780, Old Trinity House, where King Henry VIII., in the fourth year of his reign, incorporated the Company of the Marines of England; this was the dockyard established by that sovereign for the better preservation of the Royal Navy, and in which he built his famous ship the "Royal Harry," carrying 100 brass guns. Here Queen Elizabeth messed on board the "Golden Hand," and knighted Sir Frances Drake after his circumnavigation of the globe. From this yard was launched the "Oliver Cromwell," which the Protector adorned with a figure-head of himself mounted on horseback, holding a laurel wreath above his head, and trampling upon emblems of five nations. In the time of King James I. and King Charles I., the residence of the Warden of the Navy was at Deptford, and this has been the yard where the royal yachts were built, repaired, fitted, and laid up. Under the huge sheds of what were called "Slips No. 4 and No. 5," but now transformed into portions of the covered cattle lairs, the Czar, Peter the Great, swung his axe and adze, lodging meanwhile in the manor-house of Saye's Court, which, with the mulberry tree planted by the Czar, still stands hard by.

At that time, and also while the poet Cowley resided here, this was the home of John Evelyn, the celebrated author of "Sylva" and "Terra," whose taste had formed a charming garden upon grounds afterwards added to the dockyard. In fact, the greater portion of Deptford Dockyard has been held by the Admiralty from about the year 1681 down to the sale of a section during last year, under a singular deed of John Evelyn, who, anxious to encourage shipbuilding, let his property to Government for a peppercorn rent, on condition that there should always be a ship on the stocks, and that the place should never be surrendered to any private enterprise. During twenty-six years prior to 1843, in which the dockyard was unused, the letter of the lease was complied with by permanently leaving a ship's keel laid down in building ship No. 1, though in the year 1843 occurred the incident of the proprietor entering the dockyard for non-fulfilment of the conditions, and the Admiralty saving their lease by hastily putting down a keel. Work on the old ships and steam vessels came to an end in 1869. The last vessel built was the "Spartan," christened by Princess Louise; and the "Druid," launched in March, 1869, was the last ship fitted out from the yard, in which month the dockyard was finally closed. Last year that portion forming the site of the new market was sold by the Admiralty to Mr. T. P. Austin by private contract for 70,000*l.*, and subsequently transferred to the Corporation of London for 91,500*l.*, with a further sum of 3140*l.* paid to the Admiralty for the erection of a gashouse and of a boundary wall separating the area from the Victualling-yard. The ranges of slaughter-shops have been formed of the arsenal and store-rooms, a quadrangular pile of brick buildings erected in the last century, around the remains of an old monastery, which still stands, bearing the date A.D. 1513.

## SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON.

IN consequence of the alarming illness of the Prince of Wales the ordinary weekly meeting of this Society did not take place on Thursday last.

## OBITUARY.

MRS. RYVES.—This extraordinary lady died on the 7th inst., at her residence, Haverstock-hill. For nearly a quarter of a century she has resided in Camden-town, and was the heroine of the *cause célèbre* for many years constantly before the legal tribunals. The active figure of the "little old lady in black" has been familiar in the neighbourhood of Haverstock-hill for a lengthened period. Until the moment of her death she retained full possession of her faculties, and it was only a few days before her decease that she walked, to see some relations, to Stockwell and back again to her residence. Her constitution, although in her seventy-fifth year, was remarkable for its unimpaired vigour. She was born on March 16, 1797. The father of Mrs. Ryves was John Thomas Serres, a celebrated painter and marine draughtsman to the Admiralty. The late Mr. Clarkson Stanfield was his great pupil. Her grandfather, Dominic Serres, was one of the first forty incorporated by the Act of George III. as Royal Academicians, and Mrs. Ryves for years received an annuity from the Academy. The paintings of her father and grandfather may be seen at Windsor Castle, in the Painted Hall at Greenwich, and at Hampton Court Palace. Their family was of French extraction, and numbered an archbishop and a marquis among the members. Her mother was the celebrated Olive Wilmot, better known as claiming to be the Princess Olive of Cumberland, daughter of His Royal Highness Henry Frederick Duke of Cumberland, brother to George III. Mrs. Ryves was married to Anthony Thomas, son of Captain Thomas Ryves, of Ranston Hall, Dorset, and obtained a divorce in the Ecclesiastical Court *a mensa et thoro* from her husband for adultery and cruelty. She leaves two sons and three daughters to lament her death.

LONGEVITY.—The journals announce the death at the age of ninety-nine, in his residence in the Rue de Varenne, of Baron de Saint-Pons de Letaye, formerly a cornet of cavalry under Louis XVI. He had passed a great part of his life in England, where he had withdrawn at the moment of the emigration. He leaves no heirs, and his title becomes extinct.

## MISCELLANEA.

THE SERPENT MOUND AT LOCHNELL.—Mr. John S. Phené, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., the discoverer of the serpent and saurian mounds in Great Britain, and who has been for a considerable time engaged in opening *tumuli* in Scotland for the Duke of Argyll, the Marquis of Lothian, and others, is at present in company with an eminent civil engineer in Glasgow and his staff, engaged in again visiting the great saurian mound on an estate near Oban—with the object of making cross sections of the structure, and making a more minute survey of its details. It is intended to construct a perfect model of this ancient structure, which is clearly a relic of serpent worship. When the model is completed, Mr. Phené intends to present a cast of it to the town of Oban.

CAPTAIN BURTON will, it is understood, read further papers before the Anthropological Institute, and describe, with topographical notes, the various objects which he collected during his twenty-two months of service in Syria and

Palestine. At the conversazione at the London Institution, on March 13, Captain Burton will deliver a lecture on his "Two Years' Gleanings in Syria and Palestine."

ANTIQUARIAN WORKS, FRANCE.—Amongst noticeable publications on the antiquities of France are an "Etude sur la Construction de la Cathédrale de Troyes," by M. Léon Pigotte; a volume on the "Monuments Celtiques de l'Alsace," by M. Max de Ring, published at Strasbourg in 1870; and a work on "Les Inscriptions Antiques de la Haute-Savoie," by M. Véron.

EXTRAORDINARY SUPERSTITION.—The following is reported from a village near Ilchester, in Somerset:—A well-to-do farmer, who has always borne the reputation of a shrewd man of business, a few weeks since had the misfortune to find a strange fatality among his herd of cows. A veterinary surgeon was called in, and every precaution taken, and the remainder of the herd were in a fair way to recovery, when suddenly the farmer became suspicious and insisted that he and his cows had been "overlooked," and immediately sought out a "wise woman" residing in an adjacent town. Acting upon the advice of the old hag, the farmer returned home, and shortly encircled with a fagot the last bullock that died, ignited the pile, and burnt the carcass, an incantation being pronounced over the burning beast. The remainder of the herd recovered, and their recovery is of course attributed by the farmer and his simple-minded neighbours, not to the skill of the veterinary surgeon, but to the success of the weird ceremonial prescribed by the fortune-teller.

A CENTENARIAN.—A maiden lady, named Catherine Tickle is now residing in Westgate Street, Launceston, Cornwall, who has, beyond all doubt, attained the age of 100 years. The register of baptisms for the parish of St. Mary Magdalen contains an entry of her baptism on the 7th of November, 1771. Her father died at the age of ninety-two years. Miss Tickle is still living with her widowed sister, aged eighty-eight. The centenarian has been a cripple ever since she was four years of age.

THE CHAUCER SOCIETY.—Mr. Edward A. Bond, the Keeper of the Manuscripts in the British Museum, will edit next year, for the Chaucer Society, the fragments of the MS. Household Book of Elizabeth, wife of Prince Lionel, which contain the earliest mention of the name of Geoffrey Chaucer, and possibly of the Philippa, whom he afterwards married. Chaucer's name is three times repeated, in the years 1357—1359. Mr. Bond's article on these fragments, in the *Fortnightly Review* of August 15, 1866, excited much attention at the time, and has frequently been referred to since; but the fragments have not yet been printed at length.

THE editorship of the *Archæologia Cambrensis*, the journal of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, has been undertaken by the Rev. D. S. Evans, of Llanydawdwy, Merionethshire.

A NEW magazine, entitled the *Librarian*, devoted to the antiquarianism of literature, is about to appear. It will reproduce poetical and historical incidents which have been too much lost in oblivion.

THE title of the second volume of Mr. Ruskin's collected works is, "Munera Pulveris," and the third volume will consist of the "Lectures on Sculpture," which he delivered at Oxford.

WITH the New Year, a monthly journal, called the *Indian Antiquarian*, will be commenced at Bombay.